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Official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

## Nearly two dozen directorate volunteers honored

*by Rich Garcia, Directed Energy Directorate*

**KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.** – During a special organizational gathering here recently, an Air Force sergeant was presented a medal and nearly two dozen other employees of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate were also honored for their volunteer efforts.

Staff Sgt. Fred M. Ader, a munitions systems journeyman in the directorate's High Power Microwave Division, was presented an Air Force Commendation Medal, first oak leaf cluster, for the quality of his work over the past five years. Among a list of accomplishments, he was cited for having revamped the unit's munitions handling and safety program, achieving a 100-percent mishap-free safety record. His efforts were instrumental in his team's winning the Air Force Materiel Command's Science and Technology Award.

Three groups of employees were recognized for their contributions on two of the laboratory's educational outreach projects: Students Planning and Conducting Experiments, or SPACE, and Marsville.

In the SPACE project, laboratory employees work as mentors with groups of students from various local high schools, coaching the students in a variety of research projects. The lab also provides some equipment, facilities and financial support.

The Marsville project is aimed at fifth graders who work in groups to learn more about Mars and how they would establish a colony on the planet. The five-month program ends with a gathering of all the groups and the assembly of a Mars colony: life-size inflatable shelters linked together.

Six people were recognized with letters of appreciation for their work as mentors for the SPACE program: Kip Kendrick, Joe Lange, Dr. Felix Morgan, Damian Sieja, Master Sgt. Mike Weber and Mike Vigil. Their students worked on a variety of projects that included developing a rocket fuel, measuring zero gravity, developing a sophisticated tracking system, assembling a small remotely-piloted plane and building a solar-powered vehicle.

Under the SPACE program, the students are required to make technical presentations, preliminary and critical design reviews and a final presentation. These formal presentations were reviewed and evaluated by another group, which was also recognized for the positive feedback they provided the students. Recognized were Dr. Julian Christou, Linda Dehainaut, Lt. Chad Lindstrom, Charles Moeller, Andrew Ongstad, Sgt. Gar Uram (a volunteer from the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center) and Cindy Vernold.

In the other group, 11 people were praised for their support to Marsville, in which more than 1,000 students from 39 New Mexico schools participated this past year. The volunteers were Mary Archuleta, Randy Burge, Ron Cowling, Patrick Griego, Jose Mares, Kelly Mora, Jan Moncrief, Melissa Ortiz, Aaron Perea, Alan Vik and Maureen Vik. @